

## Additional Information

### Tips For Observing and Photographing Dragonflies

Dragonflies can be loosely lumped into categories of “perchers” or “flyers”. Perchers, such as some of the skimmers, have a usual or favorite perch which they return to repeatedly. Some flyers have a usual route, a beat which they fly back and forth in the same area. You can pre-focus your camera or binoculars on that area to get a close look. Some have a large, long beat and are more difficult to predict, so some luck and persistence are required to find them perched. Most odonates are most active in the middle of the day, but some are more active early and late, roosting most of the day in the shade. Be prepared, research and study your subjects first to know the preferred habitats. Binoculars, especially close-focus binoculars are a great aid for observing all nature subjects.

Approach slowly, getting closer and snapping away as you go (with today’s digital cameras, you can always delete later), a good distant shot is better than none and will be of some aid in identifying later.

Try to align planes of focus; for example, a side view is usually good, so move to the side for a clear side view of the dragonfly. A “3/4 view” can show face and eyes as well as the side. Some field marks are more important than others in differentiating one species from another. Get more than one angle if possible.

Sun at your back is always good for photographic detail but be ready to use flash to “fill” in the detail on the shadow side if the subject is back-lit or in any dark situation.

### About ATBI

This brochure was compiled and developed by the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) group. ATBI is an on-going project in Tennessee State Parks and State Natural Areas. The goal of ATBI is to document all species in Tennessee State Parks, monitor long-term trends in specific taxonomic groups, and promote education about and preservation of all biodiversity with increased science and citizen education efforts. To access the ATBI database, go to [www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi).

For more information about ATBI, please contact David Hill, 7th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243. Email [david.r.hill@tn.gov](mailto:david.r.hill@tn.gov). Phone 615-253-2455.

#### Dragonfly References

Beaton, Giff. 2007. Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast. A Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book.

Dunkle, Sidney. 2000. Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America. Oxford University Press.

Nikula, Blair et al. 2002. Stokes Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies. Little, Brown & Company.

<http://www.odonatacentral.org/>. Dragonfly Society of the Americas. This site has checklists of dragonflies by county.

*Collecting of plants or animals in state parks and natural areas is prohibited. Please help preserve Tennessee's natural heritage by leaving plants and animals for others to enjoy.*

#### ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

1015 Hwy. 143

Roan Mountain, TN 37687

(423) 772-0190

[www.tn.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/)

### TENNESSEE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



*All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)*

## Dragonflies and Damselflies of Roan Mountain State Park and Carter County



Photo © Richard Connors

Welcome to the wonderful world of dragonflies at beautiful Roan Mountain State Park! Of the approximate 155 species of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Tennessee 40 have been documented in this park and Carter County.

Above is a picture of a Widow Skimmer (*Libellula luctuosa*), male. A common "percher", widow skimmers are found near lakes, ponds and slow sections of streams. Both males and females have the solid black wing stripes next to the body. You can remember this one by: "the Widow wears black next to the body". The female has a dark brown abdomen with a bright yellow stripe down the sides.

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# Dragonfly and Damselfly Checklist of Roan Mountain State Park and Carter County

**Damselflies (Zygoptera)**

***Broad-winged Damselflies***  
***(Calopterygidae)***

- \* ☐ Ebony Jewelwing

### *Spreadwings (Lestidae)*

- ☐ Great Spreadwing
- \* ☐ Amber-winged Spreadwing
- \* ☐ Slender Spreadwing

### *Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae)*

- ☐ Variable Dancer
- ☐ Aurora Damsel
- \* ☐ Azure Bluet
- \* ☐ Familiar Bluet
- ☐ Turquoise Bluet
- \* ☐ Fragile Forktail
- \* ☐ Eastern Forktail

### *Dragonflies (Anisoptera)*

### *Petaltails (Petaluridae)*

- ☐ Gray Petaltail

### *Darners (Aeshnidae)*

- ☐ Lance-tipped Darner
- \* ☐ Shadow Darner
- \* ☐ Common Green Darner

### *Clubtails (Gomphidae)*

- \* ☐ Moustached Clubtail
- ☐ Lancet Clubtail
- ☐ Ashy Clubtail
- \* ☐ Southern Pygmy Clubtail
- \* ☐ Eastern Least Clubtail

***Spiketails (Cordulegastridae)***

- \* ☐ Brown Spiketail
- \* ☐ Tiger Spiketail

***Cruisers (Macromiidae)***

### *Emeralds (Corduliidae)*

- ☐ Common Baskettail
- \* ☐ Prince Baskettail
- ☐ Ski-tipped Emerald
- ☐ Mocha Emerald
- ☐ Clamp-tipped Emerald

### *Skimmers (Libellulidae)*

- \* ☐ Common (Eastern) Pondhawk
- ☐ Slaty Skimmer
- \* ☐ Widow Skimmer
- ☐ Twelve-spotted Skimmer
- \* ☐ Great Blue Skimmer
- \* ☐ Blue Dasher
- \* ☐ Wandering Glider
- \* ☐ Eastern Amberwing
- \* ☐ Common Whitetail
- \* ☐ Ruby Meadowhawk
- \* ☐ Band-winged Meadowhawk
- \* ☐ Autumn Meadowhawk
- \* ☐ Black Saddlebags

**\* Documented in the Park**

**Habitat:**

Roan Mountain State Park lies in eastern Carter County in a mountain valley that is part of the Blue Ridge or Appalachian Mountain chain. The top of the mountain

is bisected by the Tennessee -North Carolina line, but the park lies mostly in the valley below. This steep-sided mountain valley has tumbling, rocky streams which form the Doe River. There are some ponds and seeps (such as at Miller Homestead , and in front of the park office etc.) This list includes species seen at near-by Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area.

**Good spots:**

- \*Along the Doe River and other streams.
- \*Open areas/fields and along the edges of these open areas/fields.
- \*At ponds, seeps, and marshy areas.

**Notes:**

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